

- (5) The signal RRR;
- (6) The distress signal MAYDAY.
- (e) The acknowledgement by direct-printing telegraphy of receipt of a distress alert from a ship earth station must be given by the coast earth station receiving the distress alert by retransmitting the ship station identity of the ship transmitting the distress alert.

§80.1119 Receipt and acknowledgement of distress alerts by coast stations and coast earth stations.

(a) Coast stations that receive a distress alert should defer acknowledgement for a short interval so that receipt may be acknowledged by a Rescue Coordination Center. Where an acknowledgement is not forthcoming within 3 minutes, the coast station in receipt of distress alerts must ensure that they are routed to a Rescue Coordination Center as soon as possible. Coast stations must provide assistance for distress communications when requested to do so by the U.S. Coast Guard. (This subpart does not specify any radio watches for coast stations.)

(b) Coast earth stations in receipt of distress alerts must ensure that they are routed as soon as possible to a Rescue Coordination Center. Coast earth stations must relay, as soon as possible, an acknowledgement of a distress alert from a Rescue Coordination Center.

(c) Certain messages must be carried without charge, regardless of the means by which they are transmitted:

- (1) Distress alert messages;
- (2) Search and rescue coordination messages;
- (3) Medical assistance messages where an imminent danger to life is present, or
- (4) Urgent meteorological or navigational danger messages passed in the ship-to-shore direction.

§80.1121 Receipt and acknowledgement of distress alerts by ship stations and ship earth stations.

(a) Ship or ship earth stations that receive a distress alert must, as soon as possible, inform the master or person responsible for the ship of the contents of the distress alert.

(b) In areas where reliable communications with one or more coast sta-

tions are practicable, ship stations in receipt of a distress alert should defer acknowledgement for a short interval so that receipt may be acknowledged by a coast station.

(c) Ship stations operating in areas where reliable communications with a coast station are not practicable that receive a distress alert from a ship station which is, beyond doubt, in their vicinity, must, as soon as possible and if appropriately equipped, acknowledge receipt and inform a Rescue Coordination Center through a coast station or coast earth station (see §80.1115(a)(2)). However, a ship station receiving an HF distress alert must not acknowledge it but must observe the requirements of §80.1123, and must, if the alert is not acknowledged by a coast station within 3 minutes, relay the distress alert.

(d) A ship station acknowledging receipt of a distress alert in accordance with paragraphs (b) or (c) of this section should:

(1) Acknowledge receipt of the alert by using radiotelephony on the distress and safety traffic frequency in the band used for the alert;

(2) If acknowledgement by radiotelephony of the distress alert received on the MF or VHF distress alerting frequency is unsuccessful, acknowledge receipt of the distress alert by responding with a digital selective call on the appropriate frequency.

(e) A ship station in receipt of a shore-to-ship distress alert relay (see §80.1113(e)) should establish communication as directed and render such assistance as required and appropriate.

§80.1123 Watch requirements for ship stations.

(a) While at sea, all ships must maintain a continuous watch:

(1) On VHF DSC channel 70, if the ship is fitted with a VHF radio installation in accordance with §80.1085(a)(2);

(2) On the distress and safety DSC frequency 2187.5 kHz, if the ship is fitted with an MF radio installation in accordance with §§80.1089(a)(2) or 80.1091(a)(3);

(3) On the distress and safety DSC frequencies 2187.5 kHz and 8414.5 kHz also on at least one of the distress and safety DSC frequencies 4207.5 kHz, 6312